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ACTION AF-01

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	OASY-00	DODE-00	DOEE-00	EUR-01
	H-01	TEDE-00	INR-00	IO-16	JUSE-00	LAB-01	L-01
	ADS-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OIC-02	OMB-01	PA-02	PM-00
	PRS-01	P-01	SNP-00	SP-00	SS-00	TRSE-00	T-00
	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-09	G-00	/037W		

-----5D170C 152044Z /38

R 151726Z JUL 94  
FM AMEMBASSY ACCRA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1778  
INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM  
AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
AMEMBASSY DAKAR  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY HARARE  
AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA  
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 12356: N/A  
TAGS: PREL, MOPS, MARR, RW, FR, GH  
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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT RADIO COMMENTS FAVORABLY ON FRENCH  
PRESENCE IN RWANDA

REF: STATE 168777

1. WE PROVIDE BELOW THE TEXT OF A NEWS COMMENTARY ON  
THE SITUATION IN RWANDA BROADCAST ON JULY 13 OVER GHANA  
BROADCASTING CORPORATION (GBC) RADIO. WHILE JOURNALISTS  
WITH THE GBC PROCLAIM THEIR INDEPENDENCE, THE SERVICE IS  
GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND COMMENTARIES GENERALLY REFLECT THE  
VIEWS OF THE GOG. THE TEXT IS NOTEWORTHY IN THAT IT IS

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY:  
JOHN L. MILLS

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THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT THAT WE HAVE SEEN PRAISING THE FRENCH OPERATION AS A WELCOME ONE WHICH WAS TRULY HUMANITARIAN IN INTENT AND HAS RESULTED IN RWANDAN LIVES BEING SAVED. ALSO WORTH ATTENTION IS THE GBC'S IMPLIED CRITICISM OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE RPF FOR ITS OPPOSITION TO THE FRENCH INTERVENTION, WHICH IT SEES AS A FACTOR IN THE FRENCH GOVERNMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF ITS INTENT TO BEGIN THE PULLOUT OF ITS TROOPS FROM RWANDA.

2. ADDING CREDENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE GBC COMMENTARY IS A REFLECTION OF OFFICIAL VIEWS IS THE JULY 14 STATEMENT OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, HARRY SAWYERR, WHO AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY BASTILLE DAY CELEBRATION ENTHUSIASTICALLY TOASTED FRANCE'S HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS IN RWANDA. THE MINISTER SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WAS PLEASED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT IN RWANDA, AND IN PARTICULARLY WITH FRENCH ACTIONS THERE.

BEGIN TEXT OF GBC NEWS COMMENTARY:  
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QUOTE: THE LAUNCHING OF "OPERATION TURQUOISE" BY FRANCE WITH THE BACKING OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL EARLIER THIS MONTH TO RESCUE MORE THAN ONE MILLION REFUGEES IN RWANDA WAS ACCEPTED WITH MIXED FEELINGS BY SOME MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL. HOWEVER, THE FRENCH OPERATION HAS PROVED BEYOND ALL REASONABLE DOUBT THAT ITS HUMANITARIAN INTERVENTION EFFORT WAS NOT A FACADE TO BACK ANY PARTY IN THE FRATRICIDAL WAR IN RWANDA OR TO SCORE ANY DIPLOMATIC OR POLITICAL POINTS. IN FACT, MANY FOLLOWERS OF THE EVENTS IN RWANDA HEAVED A SIGH OF RELIEF AT THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE FRENCH OPERATION WHICH LED TO THE CREATION OF A SAFE HAVEN IN SOUTHWESTERN RWANDA AND NEARBY AREAS FOR HUNDREDS (SIC) OF FLEEING MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN. THE MISSION HAS BEEN MORE THAN WELCOME SINCE IT HAS PREVENTED THE MASSACRE OF SEVERAL HUNDREDS OF RWANDANS BY THE HUTU-DOMINATED GOVERNMENT. BUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT YESTERDAY BY FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ALAIN JUPPE THAT FRANCE WOULD WITHDRAW ITS TROOPS GRADUALLY FROM WAR-TORN RWANDA CAME AS A SURPRISE TO MANY SUPPORTERS OF THE FRENCH MISSION. THIS WAS IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE PROJECTED FIVE THOUSAND 500 UN PEACEKEEPING FORCE FOR RWANDA WAS YET TO BE CONSTITUTED. ACCORDING TO MR. JUPPE, IT HAS BEEN HIS COUNTRY'S AIM TO

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WITHDRAW ITS 2,500 TROOPS SENT TO RWANDA TO PROTECT  
REFUGEES BY LATE JULY OR EARLY AUGUST. THE FRENCH PRIME  
MINISTER, MR. EDOUARD BALLADUR, AFTER TALKS AT THE UN  
HAD EARLIER SAID THAT A NUMBER OF COUNTRIES HAD AGREED  
TO SEND TROOPS TO TAKE OVER FROM THE FRENCH IN RWANDA.  
THE FRENCH PREMIER WAS, HOWEVER, NOT APPARENTLY  
SATISFIED WITH THE SLOW RESPONSE OF THE UN SECURITY

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COUNCIL TO THE SITUATION IN RWANDA. HE WAS ALSO NOT  
PLEASED WITH THE FACT THAT PLEDGES MADE BY SOME  
COUNTRIES TO THE FRENCH MISSION APPEARED TO BE ONLY  
SATISFACTORY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF GHANA AND SENEGAL,  
WHICH HAVE SENT SOME 500 AND 100 TROOPS TO RWANDA, THE  
REST OF AFRICA HAS REMAINED SILENT ON THE ISSUE. WITH  
THE UN SECURITY COUNCIL COMPLAINING OF LACK OF FUNDS TO  
SUPPORT ITS PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS IN RWANDA, IT IS  
DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW THE FRENCH HUMANITARIAN MISSION CAN  
BE EFFECTIVELY REPLACED. THE FRENCH POSTURE IS NOT  
HELPED IN ANY WAY BY DEMANDS BY THE HEAD OF EUROPEAN  
AFFAIRS FOR THE REBEL RPF JACQUES BIHOZAGARA THAT FRENCH  
FORCES LEAVE THE COUNTRY BY THE 31ST OF THIS MONTH  
RATHER THAN IN STAGES. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING BECAUSE  
THE RPF HAD RIGHT FROM THE BEGINNING OPPOSED FRENCH  
INTERVENTION IN THE COUNTRY. WHILE THE UN FORCES ARE  
NOT YET ASSEMBLED FOR RWANDA, AN IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL OF  
FRENCH TROOPS WILL RUN COUNTER TO HER HUMANITARIAN  
MISSION IN THAT COUNTRY. UNLESS FRANCE FEELS THAT THERE  
IS AN IMMEDIATE DANGER TO HER TROOPS IN RWANDA, SHE MUST  
NOT BE SEEN TO BE ABANDONING A GOOD CAUSE. MR. BALLADUR  
HAS ALREADY DESCRIBED THE RWANDAN SITUATION AS

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"CATASTROPHIC." HE HAS ALSO EXPRESSED HIS  
DISAPPOINTMENT OVER THE RWANDAN ISSUE, SAYING "RWANDA IS  
AN AFFAIR WHICH.....THROWS INTO QUESTION THE CREDIBILITY  
OF NATIONS AND THEIR ORGANIZATIONS." THE UNITED STATES  
WHICH COULD HAVE ASSISTED FRANCE IN RWANDA SEEMS NOW TO  
BE ASKING FOR FRENCH SUPPORT IN WAR-TORN YUGOSLAVIA FOR  
A LARGER AND MORE COSTLY PEACEKEEPING OPERATION. UNLESS  
THE US IS TRYING TO WOO FRANCE FROM AFRICA INTO EUROPE,  
IT IS DIFFICULT TO SEE HOW FRANCE CAN LEAVE AFRICA IN  
THE LURCH. WHATEVER HER INTENTIONS, FRANCE MUST MAKE  
SURE THAT HER HUMANITARIAN ZONE IN RWANDA HAS BEEN  
EFFECTIVELY TAKEN OVER BY UN TROOPS BEFORE SHE WITHDRAWS  
FROM RWANDA. THE UN AND THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN  
UNITY MUST MAKE SERIOUS EFFORTS TO GET THE RWANDAN  
PROBLEM UNDER CONTROL BEFORE OTHER SYMPATHETIC NATIONS  
LOSE PATIENCE WITH THEM. END QUOTE. LEDESMA

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